

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 061140Z APR 75 ZFF-4

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 192

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK NIACT IMMEDIATE

COMUSSAG NIACT IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI NIACT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T PHNOM PENH 6029

EXDIS

MILITARY ADDRESSEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

DEPT PLS PASS SECDEF AND JCS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AEMR, CB, US

SUBJECT: EVACUATION OF PHNOM PENH.

REF: (A) PHNOM PENH 6001; (B) STATE 77770

1. AS INSTRUCTED PARA ONE REF B, WE ARE CONTINUING TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO REDUCE NUMBERS IN ALL CATEGORIES FOR WHICH WE ARE RESPONSIBLE, WITH EXCEPTION OF KEY INDIGENOUS PERSONNEL. WE ARE SENDING OUT A FEW KHMER LOCAL EMPLOYEES WHO ARE DOCUMENTED AND WHO REQUEST TRANSPORT.

2. AS FOR OFFICIAL MISSION, COUNTRY TEAM HAS RECONSIDERED ENTIRE QUESTION AGAIN AT GREAT LENGTH AND WE HAVE DETERMINED THAT MINIMUM NUMBER WE CAN OPERATE WITH EFFECTIVELY FOR PRESENT IS 58. IN ADDITION TO THE FIFTY WHOSE NAMES WERE GIVEN IN REF A, FOLLOWING ADDITIONS OR CHANGES WERE DECIDED ON THIS MORNING (COMPARE WITH LIST IN PARA TWO OF REF A):

(B) POLITICAL-MILITARY SECTION (2)

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(ADD) TIMOTHY M. CARNEY, POL/MIL OFFICER

(H) USDAO (13)

(ADD) LTC THOMAS M. BOWES, AARMA
(ADD) MAJ. PATRICK A. LALLY, AARMA
(ADD) MAJ. ALAN P. ARMSTRONG, AARMA
(ADD) MAJ. MILLARD BURKE, AARMA
(ADD) MAJ. KENNETH N. HOLLANDER, AARMA
(ADD) SP4 KYLE P. JENSON, CCF COMMUNICATOR

(I) MEDTC (11)

(ADD) CAPT. CHARLES DAVIDSON, CHIEF NAVY SECTION
(ADD) CAPT. KENNETH R. BOWRA, ADC
(DELETE) YN1 FLOYD ROE, TYPIST

3. AS EXPLAINED IN REF A, THE MAJOR JUSTIFICATION FOR KEEPING MOST OF THE ABOVE PERSONNEL IS TO MAINTAIN THE MORALE OF FANK, FOR THE SUDDEN DISAPPEARANCE OF THE AMERICAN OFFICERS WITH WHOM THEY ARE USED TO HAVING DAILY CONTACT WOULD HAVE SERIOUS ADVERSE CONSEQUENCES. THIS WAS CONFIRMED TO ME THIS MORNING WHEN I INTERVIEWED THE AARMA'S INDIVIDUALLY. WE WILL OF COURSE REDUCE FURTHER WHENEVER POSSIBLE AS WE REVIEW OUR SITUATION DAILY.

4. WE WILL BE DOWN TO THE FIGURE OF 58 OFFICIAL MISSION PERSONNEL BY THE EVENING OF APRIL 6.

5. IN ACCORDANCE WITH INSTRUCTIONS IN PARA TWO OF REF B, WE HAVE TODAY TAKEN THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS WITH REGARD TO THE GROUPS OF PEOPLE DESCRIBED IN PARA FIVE OF REF A:

(A) CONSUL MCCARTHY AND FSO CARNEY ARE CONTACTING ALL THE AMCIT RESIDENTS, SOME OF WHOM HAVE KHMER DEPENDENTS, AS WELL AS ALL THEY CAN FIND IN THE "TRANSIENT" CATEGORY TO URGE THEIR IMMEDIATE DEPARTURE ON THE BASIS THAT IF THEY DO NOT LEAVE NOW WE WILL NO LONGER BE ABLE TO ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEIR EVACUATION.

(B) USAID IS CONTACTING THE 5 UNICEF PERSONNEL WITH THE
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SAME ADVICE. THE 3 AMCIT VOLAG PEOPLE (CARE) ARE LEAVING TOMORROW.

(C) WITH REGARD TO THE PRESS, OUR PAO IS ASKING THEM TO REDUCE THEIR NUMBERS, BOTH AMERICANS AND TCN'S, TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE AND TO CONSIDER OPERATING ON A POOL BASIS. THEY ARE NOT LIKELY TO TAKE THIS ADVICE, AND WE DEEM IT UNWISE TO TAKE WITH THE PRESS THE LINE THAT

IF THEY REFUSE TO LEAVE NOW WE WILL DECLINE TO
ACCEPT FURTHER RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEIR EVACUATION.
THE PRESS REACTION TO SUCH ADVICE WOULD BE VOLCANIC.

6. RESPONSE FROM UNICEF WAS THAT 3 OF THE 5 WILL
DEPART APRIL 7 OR 8. AS FOR IGNATIEFF AND ONE OTHER
UNICEF STAFFER, HE HAS REQUESTED NEW YORK TO CONFIRM
WHETHER THE INSTRUCTIONS HE RECEIVED IN FEBRUARY TO
STAY HERE REGARDLESS REMAIN VALID.

7. TASS CORRESPONDENT KOSSINSKI (NOT INCLUDED
IN OUR E&E PLAN) HAS ASKED US TO GET HIS WIFE OUT. WE
WILL BOOK HER ON EARLIEST AVAILABLE FLIGHT.

8. CATEGORY OF AMCIT RESIDENTS HAS BEEN REDUCED FROM 49
TO 41 TODAY AS RESULT EFFORTS OF MCCARTHY AND CARNEY.
AN ADDITIONAL NUMBER OF AMERICAN PILOTS AND THEIR
DEPENDENTS, PERHAPS AS MANY AS TEN, WILL LEAVE IF AND
AS SOON AS WE CAN OBTAIN SOME AVGAS FOR THEM TO FLY
OUT THEIR PLANES. NO CHANGE IN CATEGORY TCN DEPENDENTS
OF AMCIT RESIDENTS. AS RESULT SURVEY OF "TRANSIENT"
POPULATION WE ARE REDUCING OUR ESTIMATE FROM 50 TO 25.

9. APPRECIATE CLARIFICATION OF INSTRUCTIONS IN PARA
THREE OF REF B THAT EVACUATION OF KIP AND KHMER USG
EMPLOYEES AND THEIR DEPENDENTS IS TO TAKE PLACE
SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH DEPARTURE OF REMAINING AMERICANS
AND OTHERS INCLUDED IN OUR PLAN.

10. ONE LATE CHANGE TO REF A IS THAT UNDER THE
ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION SUBSTITUTE NAME OF JAMES B. FLETCHER,
COMMUNICATION SUPPORT OFFICER, FOR THAT OF GEORGE S. STURGEON.
LATTER IS DEPARTING TOMORROW WITH HIS FIANCEE.

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